

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7851

BILL NUMBER: SB 539

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 18, 2005

BILL AMENDED: Feb 17, 2005

SUBJECT: Accessible Electronic Information Service.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Young R Michael

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill requires the Talking Books and Braille Division of the State Library to work with a qualified entity to provide information in an electronic format to blind and disabled persons. The bill requires that \$5,000 be transferred monthly to the state General Fund from the surcharge on residential and business telephone lines to provide services to the hearing impaired.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill would require the Director of the Talking Books and Braille Division to enter into an agreement with a qualified entity to provide an accessible electronic information service for blind or disabled persons. The bill states that the agreement make maximum use of federal funds, grants or in kind support and secure low cost interstate rates for telecommunications by reimbursement or other means.

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) *Summary:* The bill would require transfers to the Indiana State Library from fees collected by local exchange telephone companies (LETC) in the state for residential and business phone lines. (The amount of transfer would equal \$5,000 per month or approximately \$60,000 per year.) Fees transferred, under the bill, would be deposited in the state General Fund.

Background: Under current law, LETCs impose a monthly surcharge of \$0.05 per month on each residential and business line of their customers to fund and recover costs for developing and providing dual party relay services for the Indiana telephone relay access corporation for the hearing and speech impaired (InTRAC). The InTRAC provides telecommunications devices to hearing and speech impaired persons.

In business year 2002-2003, the InTRAC received \$3.76 M in revenues from the surcharge described above.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana State Library; Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; Office of the State Treasurer.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Joel Fishkin, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.